

IN THE CLAIMS

1.(original) Tongs comprising a four link mechanism (12, 20, 22, 30) wherein the links are pivotally connected together by means of parallel pivot joints (23', 24', 31', 32'). wherein the link mechanism includes two mutually connected links (20, 30) which define therebetween an angle that approaches 180° at the closing end position of the tongs, and wherein the length of one (30) of said two links is adjustable, **characterised in that** the length adjustable link (30) includes two parts that are moveable in the longitudinal direction of the link, wherein the first (36) of said parts includes a slot (51) for guiding a pivot shaft (31) carried by said second part (70) and belonging to the pivot joint of the adjustable link (30), and wherein the shaft (31) carries a rounded body (50) that has mutually discrete first formations disposed around its periphery, said formations being located at mutually different distances from the shaft (31) about which the second part (70) is rotatable; and in that the first part (36) includes on the longitudinal axis of the length adjustable link (30) a second formation (38) that is generally complimentary to the first formations (33) for engagement with one of said formations.

2.(original) Tongs according to Claim 1 **characterised in that** peripherally adjacent first formations (33) have mutually the same angular distance around the pivot axis of the second part (70); and in that the distance of the first formations to the pivot axis of said first part is selectable.

3.(original) Tongs according to Claim 2 **characterised in that** the first formations are disposed around a spiral path that is centred on the pivot axis of the second part (70).

4.(currently amended) Tongs according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1-3~~ **characterised in that** the first formations (33) and the second formation (38) have generally the form of mutually co-acting arcs of a circle.

5.(currently amended) Tongs according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1-4~~ **characterised in that** body (50) carried by said second part (70) has a side surface (52) that rests on an abutment surface (57) on said first part; and in that the two pivot axes of the adjustable link are mutually parallel.

6.(currently amended) Tongs according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1-5~~ **characterised in that** the first part (36) of the adjustable link carries a cam (33a) that forms part of a latching mechanism (33a, 34).